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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

25X1

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Conditions in Sofia: Prices o. Consumer Goods/Standard  
of Living/Status of Religion.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.

Prices of Consumer Goods2. "Prices valid as of late July in Sofia:Bread and flourLava

Bread, black, the less expensive bread called also the 'poor people's bread', poor quality, price per kilo . . . . .	1.96
Bread, black, called 'Paenica', of better quality than above (flour is just a little bit whiter) price per kilo . . . . .	2.80
Bread, called 'Dobrujanski', almost white, good quality, per kilo . . .	3.80
Bread, white, best quality in Sofia's State Bakery Stores, per kilo ..	4.80
'Kifli' bread, white, (150 grams in a loaf), price per loaf . . . . .	1.00
'Kozonacen', a poor type of panetone made of eggs, a little fat and a bit of sugar, price per kilo . . . . .	6.00

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Note: No ration cards exist in Bulgaria for bread and other items. Bread is on sale in Sofia in all State Bakery Stores six days of the week at 0800-1300 and 1700-2200 hours. Sundays, only one State Bakery Store is open for each sector of Sofia city, from 0800 to 1200 hours.

Flour, white of good quality (0000), per kilo . . . . . 6.00  
 Polenta flour (corn flour), of either white or yellow type, per kilo. 2.80  
 \*Polenta flour, of either white or yellow type, per kilo . . . . . 3.00

Note: \*Said price is valid for the so-called free market or bazaars of Poduene and Genski. These are the only free markets in Sofia. They are open only on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week. On those days farmers from the villages surrounding Sofia are allowed to come to the city and sell their products. They must possess a special authorization entitling them to perform such sales. This is issued only after a farmer has completed all delivery of agricultural goods and taxes to the State. Free market prices are a bit higher than those in the State Stores but are officially tolerated by the State. However, the citizens of Sofia prefer to pay more and have better quality milk, butter etc.

'Gris' (a sort of wheat meal), per kilo . . . . . 8.00

#### Sugar

Sugar, per kilo . . . . . 9.80

Note: Each person is allowed to buy only 1/2 kilo of sugar per month. In order to control the sale of sugar (since there are no ration cards) citizens may purchase sugar only in specified State Food Stores, located in the sector of the city where they reside. The Edinna Organizatia which comes under the supervision of the Otocestven Front, supplies each State Store with a roster of the citizens in its sector of the city. Thus a check is made. This kind of control and restriction is equivalent to a ration card. Citizens cannot purchase sugar in State Food Stores other than those in the respective sector of the city where their names are on file.

#### Dairy Products

Eggs, price for one egg in State Stores, depending on size.

Fresh eggs cost more . . . . . 0.54 - 0.85 - 0.85

Eggs, in Sofia's open markets, fresh, price per egg . . . . . 1.00

Milk, skimmed on sale in State Stores, price per liter . . . . . 2.80

Milk, good quality, on sale in the markets, fresh, per liter . . . . . 4.00

'Kisselo Mleko' (acid milk), skimmed, on sale in State Stores, per kilo .v. . . . . 3.80

'Kisselo Mleko', good quality, on sale from farmers on the open markets, per kilo .v. . . . . 5.00

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Butter, 1st quality, on sale in State Stores, price per kilo . . . . . 27.00  
 Butter called 'Bivolako Maslo' 2nd quality, on sale in State  
 Stores, per kilo . . . . . 26.00  
 Butter, of good quality, on sale on open market, per kg. . . . . 25.00 -30.00  
 Pork fat, 1st quality, per kilo . . . . . 20.00  
 Pork fat, 2nd quality, per kilo . . . . . 18.00  
 Pork fat, 3rd quality, per kilo . . . . . 15.00

Note: Pork fat from farmers cannot be found in the open markets.

'Kashkaval'; cheese, price per kilo in State Stores . . . . . 20.00  
 'Kashkaval' cheese, price per kilo in open markets . . . . . 25.00  
 'Sirene' type cheese, on sale in State Stores,  
 1st quality, price per kilo . . . . . 13.00  
 2nd quality, price per kilo . . . . . 10.15  
 'Sirene' type cheese, on sale in open markets, price per kilo . . . . 15.00-16.00

#### Salt

Salt, price per kilo . . . . . 1.60

#### Sweets and Wines

'Rahat Locum' (Turkish type of sweet), price per kilo . . . . . 14.70  
 'Rahat Locum' with nuts, price per kilo . . . . . 18.00-20.00  
 'Mastica' Bulgarian type of sweet brandy, per liter including bottle. 47.00  
 Wine, either red or white, per liter . . . . . 8.50-10.00  
 Wine, either red or white, on sale in the Italian type bottle (fiasco)  
 3/4 liter content, good quality, price per fiasco . . . . . 12.00  
 Chocolate, made of pure cocoa, good quality bar 7x 1 cm . . . . . 6.00  
 'Soia' type or ersatz chocolate, awful taste and quality, same size  
 bar . . . . . 2.80  
 Caramels with chocolate, per kilo . . . . . 80.00

#### Coffee

Coffee (pure) per kilo . . . . . 350.00

Note: All coffee on sale in Sofia's State stores is coffee that belongs  
 rightfully to Bulgarian citizens. It is coffee that was sent in food

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parcels from various parts of the world to citizens in Sofia, who, being unable to pay the high duty taxes, are forced to cede it to the State at extremely low prices. The State actually makes a bargain with recipient of a food parcel: in lieu of customs duty it accepts a certain quantity of coffee.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, per Kilo

	<u>State Stores</u>	<u>Open Market</u>
Tomatoes	0.84	1.00
Cucumbers	0.54	0.60
Fresh beans	0.92	1.00
Spinach	0.28	0.30
Pumpkins	0.65	0.80
Fresh potatoes	0.54	0.60
Peppers	0.80	1.00
Cherries	1.80	3.00
Strawberries	2.80	not on sale
Plums	0.80	not on sale
Peaches	1.80	not on sale

Note: Shortage of strawberries. Sold in small quantities to queues. No farm fruits can be found on the open markets, except cherries occasionally.

Meat and PoultryLamb, price per kilo (only in State Butcher Shops)

1st quality (leg of lamb)	18.00
2nd quality (breast)	14.00
3rd quality (head)	8.00

Beef, price per kilo (only in State Shops)

1st quality	14.00
2nd quality	11.00
3rd quality (bones)	7.00

Veal, price per kilo (only in State Shops)

1st quality	16.20
2nd quality	14.00
3rd quality (bones)	7.00-8.00

Pork, price per kilo (only in State Shops)

1st quality	18.20
2nd quality	16.00
3rd quality (bones)	14.00

Live chickens (only available in open markets from farmers), price according to size and weight, about 1.50 kg each 20.00 - 25.00

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Chickens, (undressed, on sale in State Stores) per kilo 11.00-12.00

Clothing and AccessoriesMen's shoes:

1st quality, leather, crudely finished per pair	260.00
2nd quality, leather, crudely finished, per pair	160.00-180.00
3rd quality, sandals, leather, per pair	120.00

Ladies' shoes:

1st quality, leather with leather soles, per pair	260.00
2nd quality, leather with leather soles, per pair	220.00
3rd quality, sandals, leather, per pair	112.00
Ladies' cotton sandals with rubber soles, per pair	55.00
Ladies' leather shoes with rubber soles (winter shoes), per pr	160.00
Ladies' half boots, leather, fur lines, price depending on quality and height of boots, per pair	280.00-450.00
Children's leather shoes with leather soles, per pair	30.00-50.00

Lipstick, indelible, Bulgarian product 'BAICAL' make, without case, each 4.00

'FIBI' - ladies' hair grips, each 0.10

Same lipstick with case 6.00

'BUTTERFLY' lipstick, local product, with case, each 12.00

This product has been unavailable in Sofia markets since April 1953.

One second hand wristwatch, not a gold case but of quite a good make 1,200.00

Note: Wrist watches are sold in Sofia's State Stores for re-sale of second-hand and used goods. These are called Commission State Stores.

New wristwatch, either Sovzone Germany or Czechoslovak make, (not with golden case) 1,200.00

Note: We saw a new watch at this price in the State Store called Narmag No. 9, Zdanov Street, Sofia. Therefore, the Commission State Re-sale Stores charge relatively more for a secondhand watch than for new Sovzone German or Czechoslovakian makes.

'Oxford' type cotton material, various colors, for ladies' dresses. This is the worst type of material. Per meter 12.00

'Basma' type ladies' cotton material, in various colors, per meter 19.00-22.00

Cotton taffeta, price per meter 27.00-30.00

Silk taffeta, price per meter 80.00

Pure silk, in various colors, per meter 85.00-90.00

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Chinese imported silk, in various colors (without designs), per meter 75.00-90.00

Chinese silk, imported material, in various colors (with typical Chinese designs), per meter 200.00

Woolen material, good quality, in various colors, either for men or ladies, width 1.40 m, per meter 200.00-300.00

Woolen material, poor quality, roughly finished and manufactured (mixed with wool and cotton), height 1.40 m, in various colors, per meter 80.00-100.00-120.00

Nylon stockings, local products,

1st quality, per pair	180.00-200.00
2nd quality, per pair	120.00-140.00-160.00
3rd quality, per pair	80.00-100.00

Artificial silk stockings, local product, per pair 22.00

Pure silk stockings, per pair 35.00-40.00

Socks, cotton, per pair 13.00

Tailoring of a suit (private tailor), price per suit 180.00

Note: Price includes lining and buttons supplied by tailor.

Tailoring of one suit, (private tailor) with buttons and lining supplied by client 120.00

Tailoring of a man's suit in one of the State Tailor's Cooperatives (price includes buttons and lining) 120.00

#### Cigarettes

Cigarettes: (prices hold true for packages of 20)

1st quality, 'Rodopi' brand	3.80
2nd quality, 'Arda' brand	1.80
3rd quality, 'Buzuga' brand	1.40
Extra quality, 'Bulgaria' brand	6.00

Strike matches, per box 0.40

Tooth-picks, per box 1.00

#### Living conditions, wages and salaries.

3. "Cost of living and living conditions for all citizens of Sofia, especially the working class, is a real problem.

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4. [redacted] a dentist technician in a hospital in Sofia. He is married and supports a wife and a two-year-old baby boy. The dentist, a State employee, earns a monthly salary of 450.00 leva plus 12.00 leva as family allowance for the baby boy. No family allowance is given by the State for wife or other dependents except children. The family has one room and a tiny kitchen. Monthly rent for the unfurnished room and kitchen (all furniture belongs to the dentist) : 50.00 Leva. The family pay 20.00-20.00 leva monthly for water and electric power. That leaves roughly 240.00 leva per month for food. The dentist eats meat every three or four months. The daily meal, either at lunch or supper, is bread and Kisselo Mleko.

5. "Non-professional workers fare worse. We know of bricklayers who eat only black bread (the less expensive type) with salt, for either supper or dinner. When they can eat Kisselo Mleko is a real holiday. About 80% of the population eats meat only every three or four months. Compare monthly wages against the above food prices:

Skilled workers, wage per month	leva 600.00
Common laborers, wage per month	leva 450.00
Clerks and State employees, per month	leva 500.00

The life of Sofia's citizens is directed towards one end (in addition to fear of arrests): how to appease daily hunger.

6. "The shortage of money has forced citizens of Sofia to sell most of their belongings. State Commission Stores are full of furniture, household goods, wrist watches and cameras. If a sale takes place, 15% of the resale price is kept by the State Store; the remainder goes to the seller.

7. "The Roman Catholic priest of the Sveti Josif Roman Catholic Church (on Zar Boris 125) was arrested during January 1953. He died in prison during March. Presently the Holy Mass is served by priests, aged 30 and 40. The priests limit themselves to celebration of the mass, making no sermons.

25X1 [redacted] do not recall having heard the celebration of a religious marriage since summer 1952. For obvious reasons, all believers prefer to celebrate only the civilian type of marriage. Despite persecutions, Roman Catholics, still attend Holy Mass on Sundays. Their number, however, has considerably decreased."

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